

The A. F. of M. is widely known for its work in the field of fraternal insurance of members and its efforts in promoting the welfare of its members in the home, industry, and public life. It is a fraternal organization that is dedicated to the service of its members and the community.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

## WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1947

GEORGE HENRY, Secretary-Treasurer

VOL. 37, NO. 37

### New Legal Rent Increases Hit 6% of Nation's Tenants

Washington, D. C.—During July and August, 6 percent of the nation's rent-controlled tenants were notified of rent increases ranging up to the 15 percent maximum permitted under the new rent control law.

This fact was revealed in a report made by Mr. Frank Crocker, Housing Director, whose office is charged with administration of the law.

While the national average is only 6 percent, 20 percent of the tenants in Illinois and 16 percent of the people in New Jersey in California the new law went into effect, according to the report.

Commenting upon the report, the AFL Housing Committee said the national average of tenants now paying higher rents would have exceeded the 6 percent figure had it not been for action taken by some local public authorities. New York City, for example, passed emergency legislation designed to protect tenants from excessive rent increases.

Mr. Crocker announced a nationwide review of the local authority action boards to make sure that wherever the boards are operating, the tenants are protected from excessive rent increases. In some instances the local boards are not truly representative, it was revealed. Newark, New Jersey, for example, has a rent board consisting of a realtor and the mayor.

The Housing and Rent Act of 1947 requires the Housing Expediter to appoint at least 10 representative citizens to the local authority boards to make sure that wherever the boards are operating, the tenants are protected from excessive rent increases. In some instances the local boards are not truly representative, it was revealed. Newark, New Jersey, for example, has a rent board consisting of a realtor and the mayor.

### Homebuilding Activity Hits New Peak; 83,000 Dwellings Started In August

Homebuilding activity reached a new high level in August, when preliminary figures showed that 83,000 new homes were started in the United States, according to preliminary figures from the Federal Housing Administration.

This was 3,000 more than the 80,000 dwellings started in July, and 17,000 more than the 66,000 started in August 1946. This fact was revealed in a report made by the Federal Housing Administration.

Early indications from local building authorities show that the building industry is building in nearly all parts of the country, only in the West Central and the Mountain regions the larger cities reporting the number of new dwellings started.

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### VA Threatens 'Disciplinary Measures' For Shoddy Construction of Vets Homes

Washington, D. C.—The Veterans Administration warned it will take action against persons responsible for shoddy building of veterans' homes which are financed under the Federal Housing Administration.

The Veterans agency said that veterans' homes are financed under the Federal Housing Administration. The Veterans agency said that veterans' homes are financed under the Federal Housing Administration.

### Article Says Swedish Co-ops Discipline Competition and Stabilize Economy

New York City.—The people of Scandinavia have their own co-operative enterprise and stabilizing economy.

This is the conclusion reached by a study made by the Federal Reserve Board, which is the third of a series of studies on co-operative enterprises in various countries.

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## Slave Labor Law Administration Near Breakdown; Protests Mount Against Taft's 'Eat Less' Doctrine

### Taft's Callous Attitude Another Attempt To Lower Workers' Living Standards Ahead Hit By New Labor Law

Washington, D. C.—"Eat less," Senator Robert A. Taft's advice to the American people on how to combat the high cost of living, promises to go down in history along with Martin Anderson's advice to the French soldiers then starving for bread—"Let them eat cake."

The Ohio Senator's Presidential aspirations suffered a severe blow as his campaign trail was flooded with protests from all over the country from American citizens who resented his callous and selfish attitude.

Labor leaders were quick to point out that the basic philosophy of Senator Taft's statement was to force the American people to live on a starvation diet.

Meanwhile, official papers over mounting prices became evidence in the hands of the people. The government's price controls were being broken, and the people were being forced to pay more for the same goods.

### \$1,000 AFL Fight For Jewish Labor

Chicago.—The American Federation of Labor is fighting a \$1,000 battle for Jewish labor.

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### Employment Dips Below 60 Million

Washington, D. C.—Employment of the nation's workers has fallen below 60 million for the first time since 1932.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the number of people employed in the United States had fallen below 60 million for the first time since 1932.

## Inflation, Taft-Hartley Law Seen Wrecking Assurance of Labor Peace

New York City.—AFL economist Roy Shostak declared that "new wage stability is the prime reason for the continued labor-management cooperation."

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### N. Y. State Issues New Wage Orders

Albany, N. Y.—Nearly 50,000 workers in New York State stand to gain from new wage orders issued by the state.

The New York State Labor Relations Board has issued new wage orders for nearly 50,000 workers in New York State.

### Hannah Resigns High Labor Post

Cincinnati.—Phil Hannah, Assistant Secretary of the American Federation of Labor, has resigned his post.

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### PHOTO-ENGRAVERS STAGE EXHIBIT OF OWN WORK

New York City.—The first exhibition of creative work in the photo-engraving industry is being staged in New York City.

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## LABOR'S GOAL! To Repeal Taft-Hartly Law

Washington, D. C.—The Taft-Hartley Act is on a verge of a complete breakdown in administration.

The first body blow was the refusal of the AFL to sign the non-Communist affidavit required in California by Robert Taft, Chief Counsel for the Taft-Hartley Law.

### AFL Council's Refusal to Sign Non-Communist Affidavits Seen as Blow to Denham Ruling; Taft Says Rule Not in Accord with Law

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### Herman Winter, Bakery Workers' Head Named to 13th Vice-Presidency of AFL

Chicago.—The AFL Executive Council named Herman Winter, head of the Bakery Workers' International Union, to the 13th Vice-Presidency of the AFL.

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### FARM JOBS REPORTED ABOVE LEVEL FOR SEPTEMBER 1946

Washington, D. C.—Total farm jobs in the United States were reported to be above the level for September 1946.

The Department of Agriculture reported that the number of farm jobs in the United States was above the level for September 1946.

### Wis. AFL Group Plans Voting Drive

Green Bay, Wis.—At the recent convention, the Wisconsin Federation of Labor Unions announced plans for a voting drive.

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service is a free service to the laboring public. It is published weekly, except on Sundays and holidays, and contains the latest news of the laboring public. It is published by the American Federation of Labor, 1230 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

## WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GROSS, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1947

GEORGE MEANY, President

### LABOR'S GOAL! To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

## AFGE Head Supports Loyalty Program; Blasts UPWA's Protest Against Probe

Washington, D. C.—Governor William G. Brown, of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), today announced that he supports the proposed loyalty program for federal employees. He also blasted the protest of the United Public Workers of America (UPWA) against the program.

"This weekly assertion of James H. Brown, president of the AFGE, American Federation of Government Employees, in an editorial appearing in the union's newspaper, 'The Government Standard'."

Mr. Brown attacked the statement by the UPWA, a rival CIO affiliate, in protesting against the proposed program. He said that the program was necessary to protect the government from espionage and sabotage. He said that the program was not a violation of the civil liberties of the workers.

"Any organization which has established procedures under which it can identify its members as being loyal to the United States government should not be subjected to the United States government," he said.

"We in the AFGE assert that loyalty is a condition precedent not only to the government service, but also to the employment of the government service. There can be no alternative. At government service, we must for example, pledge loyalty and then operate in a manner which is consistent with that pledge. We must not engage in any activity which is contrary to the national interest. We cannot serve the government and at the same time be a member of a group which is engaged in a subversive activity. We have no fear of any investigation of the loyalty of our members. Their record is one of integrity and devotion to the service of the United States."

## AFI's Labor League for Human Rights Deluged With Thanks for European Aid

New York City.—The Labor League for Human Rights, sponsored by the American Federation of Labor, today received a flood of letters and telegrams from European nations thanking it for the aid it has given them.

The league, which was organized in 1945, has been instrumental in securing the release of political prisoners and in providing relief for the victims of the war. It has also been instrumental in securing the release of the German and Japanese war criminals.

"We are overwhelmed by the response to our appeal for aid to the European nations," said the league's executive director, William G. Brown. "We are grateful to the American Federation of Labor for its support of the league and to the European nations for their response to our appeal."

## Aiken Blasts At 'Red' Ruling; AFL Pushes Fight On Decree

Washington, D. C.—The AFL's drive against the ruling of Robert N. Aiken, general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, today gained momentum. The AFL is now pushing for a new ruling on the subject of the right to strike.

Mr. Aiken's ruling, which was issued in 1945, held that the right to strike is a fundamental right of the workers. It also held that the right to strike is a right which is protected by the National Labor Relations Act.

The AFL is now pushing for a new ruling on the subject of the right to strike. It is asking the NLRB to rule that the right to strike is a right which is protected by the National Labor Relations Act.

## IBEW Files Test Case on 'Red' Affidavits Tracy Hits Denham's 'Far-Fetched' Edit

Washington, D. C.—The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) today filed a test case with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to challenge the ruling of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on the subject of "red" affidavits.

The IBEW is asking the NLRB to rule that the FBI's ruling is invalid. It is asking the NLRB to rule that the FBI's ruling is a violation of the National Labor Relations Act.

Tracy, who is the general counsel of the IBEW, today criticized the FBI's ruling. He said that the FBI's ruling is "far-fetched" and that it is a violation of the National Labor Relations Act.

## Retail Prices Hold At High Levels; Grain And Livestock Prices Slump

### Auto Workers To Cooperate In Price Conspiracy Probe

Minneapolis, Minn.—Lester Washburn, president of the United Auto Workers Union, today announced that his union will cooperate in a probe into a possible price conspiracy.

Mr. Washburn said that his union is not a party to any price conspiracy. He said that his union is only interested in the welfare of the workers.

The probe is being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). It is looking for evidence of a price conspiracy between the auto industry and the oil industry.

### Wholesale Price Index Up Again As Price Probes Begin

Washington, D. C.—American workers still found prices higher at the retail level although Government pressure and consumer resistance caused prices to retreat somewhat from their recent record levels.

The wholesale price index, which is a measure of the prices of goods and services, today rose again. It is now at its highest level since the war.

The rise in the index is being attributed to the price probes which are being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

## N. Y. Teachers Guild Pushes Drive For \$600 Pay Boost Affecting 35,000

New York City.—The New York Teachers Guild today announced that it is pushing for a \$600 pay boost for its members.

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## Chemical Workers Get Third Pay Boost In New Contract With Lever Brothers

Akron, Ohio.—The AFL's Chemical Workers Union today announced that it has secured a third pay boost for its members in a new contract with Lever Brothers.

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## Industry Forget Workers Says Labor Relations Man

Los Angeles.—While American workers enjoy the highest standard of living in the world, American industry has forgotten the workers, says a labor relations man.

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## Denham 'Red' Rule Hit As Illegal Discrimination

Max Zaritsky, president of the AFL's United Nations Club and Secretary International Union, charged Robert N. Denham, general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), today with illegal discrimination against the workers.

Mr. Zaritsky said that Mr. Denham's ruling is a violation of the National Labor Relations Act. He said that Mr. Denham's ruling is a violation of the National Labor Relations Act.

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## Number of Women In Labor Force Rises; Proportion of Married Women Is Higher

Washington, D. C.—The number of women in the labor force increased during 1946 to a point 60 percent higher than in 1940, the Women's Bureau of the Labor Department today reported.

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## Green Says Labor Law 'Unworkable'

Cincinnati.—United Press Wire—Green said the Taft-Hartley law is "unworkable" and "unfair" to the workers.

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## PAPER WORKERS DEFEAT MOVE TO CUT OUTPUT

Milwaukee, Wis.—At the request of President John R. Burke, delegates to the annual convention of the American Federation of Paper Mill Workers (AFPMW) today defeated a motion to cut output.

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## 96,000 ESTABLISHMENTS TRAINING APPRENTICES

Washington, D. C.—The number of establishments training apprentices in the United States today reached 96,000, according to a report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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## HOLLYWOOD JOBS DROP 30% BELOW YEAR AGO

Hollywood, Calif.—Employment in the motion picture industry today dropped 30 percent from a year ago, according to a report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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## AFI's Actors Equity Association Bans Communists and Fascists from Office

New York City.—The Actors Equity Association today announced that it has banned communists and fascists from its office.

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